

Serial No. 10/672,083
60130-1896
02MRA0122

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis (US 6271512), Claims 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Winston (US 5410149), Claims 1, 6, 7, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Connor (US 20040056199), Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winston in view of Lewis, Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diong, (US 5489891), and Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapdelaine (US 6157024). Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include the features of claim 5, and claim 12 has been amended to include the features of claim 12. None of the references alone or in combination disclose a circuit that updates a reference distribution as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated or obvious in view of these references.

Claims 1, 5-7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Connor (WO 01/306772). O'Connor does not disclose an obstruction detector including a circuit that compares a distribution of light received by a sensor to a reference distribution as claimed. O'Connor discloses a detector that analyzes a duration of at least one pulse and compares the duration to a time threshold value. A receiver receives reflected radiation and provides an output indicative of the strength of reflected radiation. For example, the receiver produces many pulses having durations related to the intensity of the energy received by the detector, and the detector produces a detection signal when the duration of one pulse exceeds a threshold value. Alternatively, the detector produces the detection signal when the duration of each of a predetermined number of consecutive pulses exceeds the threshold value (page 9, lines 21-30). A distribution of light received by a sensor is not compared to a reference distribution as claimed. Instead, a duration of pulse is compared to a time threshold. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Diong. Diong does not disclose an obstruction detector including a circuit that compares a distribution of light received by a sensor to a reference distribution as claimed. Diong discloses a control that illuminates under user specified conditions (column 1, lines 14-19). During a passive infrared mode, a detector detects the presence of moving infrared sources (column 2, lines 10-17). When motion is detected, a signal instantly detected (t) is compared to the prior signal (t-1) (column 5,

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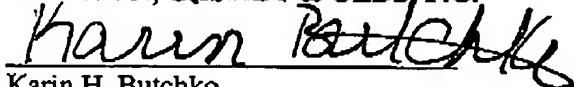
lines 28-36). The signal detected at the previous period (t-1) is not a reference distribution, i.e., it is not a benchmark for comparing incoming data. Diong does not compare a distribution of light received by the sensor to a reference distribution. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

Claims 1, 4-7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chapdelaine. Chapdelaine does not disclose an obstruction detector including a circuit that compares a distribution of light received by a sensor to a reference distribution as claimed. Chapdelaine discloses a detector that analyzes a duration of at least one pulse and compares the duration to a time threshold value. A receiver receives reflected radiation and provides an output indicative of the strength of reflected radiation. For example, the receiver produces many pulses having durations related to the intensity of the energy received by the detector, and the detector produces a detection signal when the duration of one pulse exceeds a threshold value. Alternatively, the detector produces the detection signal when the duration of each of a predetermined number of consecutive pulses exceeds the threshold value (page 7, lines 51-60). A distribution of light received by a sensor is not compared to a reference distribution as claimed. Instead, a duration of pulse is compared to a time threshold. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

Thus, claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on July 26, 2005.


Amy M. Spaulding